Deltometopus amoenicornis (Say) and **rufipes** (Melsh.)

Reared from badly decayed American beech (*Fagus grandifolia* Ehrh.) log from Delaware Co., Ohio. The species overwinters in larval stage.

Dirhagus pectinatus (Lec.)

Reared from badly decayed American beech log from Delaware Co., Ohio.

Nematodes penetrans (Lec.)

Reared from fallen limb of American beech from Delaware Co., Ohio. Adults are capable of snapping into the air.

A New Species of Taphrocerus (Coleoptera: Buprestidae)

By Burdette E. White, Merced, California

While sweeping a meadow of rushes in northwestern Merced County on April 18, 1946, this writer collected a single female specimen of *Taphrocerus*. Considerable effort failed to reveal any additional specimens at this time. After reviewing Professor Knull's paper on the *Taphrocerus* * it became apparent that this specimen belonged to an undescribed species. However, a male was necessary to establish this with certainty. Another trip to the area on April 22, 1946, yielded two more examples, one being a male, whose genitalia proved conclusively that here indeed was a new form. Two more females were collected on April 27 but three trips shortly thereafter produced no additional specimens, so it seemed that this was an early season form. With only five examples in hand, but with the prospect of obtaining additional material the following year, it appeared desirable to postpone publication of this find.

Two trips to the same area in early spring (March 23, April 1) of 1947 yielded nothing. However, on April 12, a series of

* Knull, J. N.—The Ohio Journal of Science, 1944, Vol. XLIV, 2, 90–93.

fourteen specimens was collected after two hours of vigorous sweeping. Ten additional examples were obtained the next day and two more on April 19. These records plainly indicate the seasonal range of this species.

Although there has been dubious reference to the existence of *Taphrocerus* in California, the writer believes that these specimens represent the first authentic record of that fact.

Taphrocerus mercedensis, new species

Male: Shining black throughout; three times as long as wide, pronotum at basal angles distinctly wider than elytra; surface sparsely, feebly pubescent without tendency to form concentrated patches; elytral apices smooth along the margin.

Head convex, front feebly concave vertically due to slight median depression; surface finely alutaceous with large, shallow punctures separated by a distance equal to their own diameters on the vertex; punctures more sparse on the front between upper two-thirds of eyes; front at lower third of eyes more densely punctate and noticeably more pubescent than upper head surface; each puncture normally with a short, appressed hair; front between lower third of eye slightly depressed.

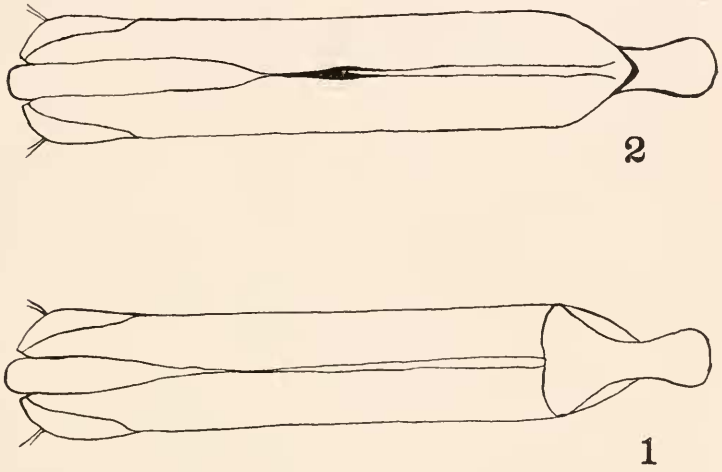
Pronotum two times as wide as long, widest at basal angles, gradually narrowing to apex to become equal to width of head; depressed across basal third; surface finely alutaceous with large, shallow punctures moderately dense over basal depression, along sides and across apex; punctures widely separated on disc; each puncture with a fine, short, appressed white hair. Scutellum triangular, glabrous, impunctate.

Elytra narrower than base of pronotum, sides constricted at basal third narrowly exposing abdominal sclerites along middle third; gradually narrowing from middle to near apex, then sharply rounded to suture; apices even (not serrulate); surface rather strongly alutaceous but shining; with coarse punctures arranged in rows and becoming less coarse posteriorly; the margin of each puncture somewhat rugose; each puncture normally with an appressed short, white hair.

Ventral surface alutaceous, shining; with large, shallow punctures; punctures with an appressed white hair.

Length 3.35 mm., width 1.25 mm.

Female: Differs from male by having the front area between lower third of eyes very much less pubescent. Strikingly similar in all other aspects.



Male genitalia of *Taphroccrus mercedensis.*

1. Ventral view. 2. Dorsal view.

Holotype male and *allotype* collected two miles east of Cressey, Merced County, CALIFORNIA on April 12, 1947 by Burdette E. White. Twenty-nine paratypes (thirteen males and sixteen females) collected at the same locality (dates cited above).

All specimens were swept from an association of *Juncus balticus* Willd. and *Carex densa* Bailey (determined by the author); the majority of the beetles were from the latter plant but there is no positive evidence that either is the true host.

Holotype, allotype, and paratypes are in writer's collection. Paratypes are deposited in the following collections: J. N. Knull; California Academy of Sciences; American Museum of Natural History; U. S. National Museum; J. J. du Bois; Acad-

emy of Natural Sciences at Philadelphia; Museum of Comparative Zoology at Cambridge; C. A. Frost; and William Barr.

Taphrocerus mercedensis is readily separable from all other species by the distinctive male genitalia (see accompanying figures). However, it is also quite unique in its smooth elytral apices, its broader thoracic base, and its general form. It is the size of *T. huachucanus* Knull but its form and color as well as its vestiture and male genitalia are quite different. The male genitalia are most similar to *T. howardi* Obenb.

So far as the writer is aware, *mercedensis* is found only in the San Joaquin Valley of California and its present recorded range is extremely narrow. However, later surveys may show its existence over a much wider area.

New Skipper Records for the United States

By H. A. Freeman, Pharr, Texas

After three years of collecting in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas the writer has come to the conclusion that many of the species of butterflies that occur in the vicinity of Victoria, Tamps., Mexico, will eventually be found to stray up around Pharr, Texas. Many of these species have been found to be native to this area, while others occur here only as stragglers. During 1944–45 the beautiful species, *Astraptes fulgerator* Walsh, was found to be very common and it was not unusual for the author to go out and collect as many as thirty or forty specimens in one afternoon. During the past year the writer has been unable to get more than two specimens. The past twelve months have been very dry here and this may account partially for the scarcity of that species. During 1946 over a hundred specimens of *Lerodea tyrtaeus* Ploetz were collected, thus establishing the fact that this species is very definitely native to this part of the state. Some of the other species of skippers that have been recorded from down here have failed to show up since the single specimen of each was caught. Examples of such